GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:45
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
CEMENT PRICE
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organised attempt by the cement manufacturing companies in the country was undertaken recently to push up the prices of cement excessively;

(b) if so, whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has also issued notices to certain companies in this connection;

(c) if so, the complete details in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to take over the right to fix prices of cement keeping in view the practices adopted by cement companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a): As per Cement Manufacturers' Association, the average price of cement has increased from Rs. 158 per bag in December, 2005 to Rs. 229 per bag in July, 2007. The details of month-wise prices are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) & (c): The details of cases pending with Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) against the Cement Industry are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 45 FOR ANSWER ON 14.08.2007 REGARDING CEMENT PRICE

Year	Month	Average Price in Rs. per bag	Increase in Price since Dec., 2005	Percentage increase in price since Dec, 2005
2005	December	158		
2006	January	163	5	3.2%
	February	175	17	10.8%
	March	189	31	19.6%
	April	199	41	25.9%
	May	200	42	26.6%
	June	201	43	27.2%
	July	201	43	27.2%
	August	201	43	27.2%
	September	202	44	27.8%
	October	205	47	29.7%
	November	208	50	31.6%
	December	209	51	32.3%
2007	January	209	51	32.3%
	February	212	54	34.2%
	March	225	67	42.4%
	April	226	68	43.0%
	May	226	68	43.0%
	June	227	69	43.7%
	July	229	71	44.9%

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 45 FOR ANSWER ON 14.08.2007 REGARDING CEMENT PRICE

The details of the Petitions pending with the MRTP Commission are as under :-

Sl. No.	Case No.	Parties	Status
1.	RTPE 99/1990	DG, MRTPC Vs. Cement Manufacturers' Association	Final arguments since 23.7.07.
2.	MTPE 2/1992	DG, MRTPC Vs. Associated Cement Co. Ltd., Mumbai	Listed for final arguments on 7.9.07.
3.	RTPE 83/2000	DG, MRTPC & M/s. Gayatri Agencies Kanchipuram Vs. Cement Manufacturers' Association, Chennai	Listed for cross examination on 29.11.07.
4.	RTPE 21/2001	Sh. Servejit S. Mokha & Another Vs. Cement Manufacturers' Association & Others	Listed for final arguments on 3.9.07.
5.	RTPE 32/2006	DG, MRTPC Vs. Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd. & Two Others	Listed on 21.8.07 for framing on issues.
6.	UTPE 86/2006	DG, MRTPC Vs. Various Cement Manufacturers	Listed on 25.10.07 for framing of issues.
7.	RTPE 52/2006	The Builders Association of India Vs. Cement Manufacturers' Association	Under preliminary investigation.
8.	RTPE 1/2007	DG, MRTPC Vs. Associated Companies Ltd	The report of DG (I&R) is awaited.
9.	RTPE 4/2007	Jaimeen Steel Corporation Vs. Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd.	Matter listed for 31.8.07 for further directions.